

W H A T I K N O W

of the

S H O E M A K E R F A M I L Y

Compiled by

Charles K. Shoemaker
of
Deerfield, New Jersey

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WHAT I KNOW
of the
SHOEMAKER FAMILY

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1913

The first Shoemaker family emigrated to America from Germany about the year 1682, induced to come to the Province of Pennsylvania by the preaching and persuasion of William Penn. They settled notably in Philadelphia, Germantown, Lancaster and Luzern Counties.

Peter Shoemaker, my great-grandfather settled in Lancaster County, Pa., and had possessions of grist-mill and farms on the Susquehanna River near Columbia, Pa. At his death this property, by his will was given to Brethren -- either Moravian or Lutheran at Lititz.

Henry Shoemaker, my grandfather, was born in 1760 and died November 15, 1833. He came from Lancaster County and settled in Deerfield, N. J. On March 9, 1790, he bought the Deerfield farm consisting of about one hundred acres, from John Peck Jr. of Richmond, Virginia for the sum of three hundred and ten pounds sterling (310).

He was married three times, his first wife was a Miss Phoebe Peck, daughter of Constant Peck; his second wife was Hannah Moore, who died October 6, 1825, aged 47 years; and his third wife, Rachel, a sister of the late Hannah, died September 5, 1864, aged 81 years, childless. She had a twin brother, Jacob, who died in 1805 at the age of twenty-one, all buried in the Presbyterian church yard at Deerfield, New Jersey.

The children of these marriages were George, John, Hazel, Enoch, Robert and Charles. These sons with the exception of Enoch and Charles (my father) followed the tide of travel to the so-called "New Lands" in Ohio. They settled in Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio, except Robert who went to Cincinnati, Ohio. In those days they traveled in Conestoga wagons camping at night, riding and walking by day. George and his wife were each provided with a belt containing their money -- eight hundred dollars in gold. One night at their encampment on counting their money they found the wife's belt had ripped and a number of gold pieces were missing. The next morning George started on horseback over the route they had traversed "remembering where his wife had walked". After riding twenty miles they recovered all but forty dollars.

My father--Charles Shoemaker was born on the Deerfield farm in the year 1807 and when a boy helped his father plant a number of button-wood trees, some of which are still standing in front of the Old Stone Church. My grandfather, when a young man carted provisions from Deerfield to the American Army at Red Bank and Trenton, New Jersey.

During the war of 1812-15 with Great Britain, a regiment of soldiers passed through Deerfield on their way to Cape May, N.J. to watch that the British Fleet did not make a landing. After remaining about a month they returned and camped for the night in grandfather's woods. The next morning they started off and father, then a boy said that with their bright uniforms and glistening bayonets, it was the most glorious sight he had ever seen.

One day shortly after this event while father was at school, the school Master upon looking out of the window saw the old *fleur* horse stage coach coming down Deerfield street with a long piece of muslin fastened on the side, on which was printed the word "Peace," in great excitement he exclaimed; "Children! School is dismissed. Go home and tell your parents that the war is over. Peace has been declared." A short time after, the agent for the Weekly Trenton paper called at the farm to see if they wished to renew their subscription, Uncle Enoch replied; "Oh no! The war is over," - peace has been declared, Napoleon has been captured, General Jackson has won a great victory at New Orleans and I guess there will never be any more news; but, you may send it another year.

My father remained on the farm until he was fourteen years of age; his parents at that time thinking him too frail to become a farmer asked him what occupation he would prefer to follow? He replied; "I would like to be a tailor." His parents took him to Philadelphia and had him apprenticed to Robb and Weinbrenner (on Chestnut St. above Third) for seven years, the firm allowing him twenty five cents per week for shoe-blacking, etc.

While serving his apprenticeship Gen. Lafayette came to Philadelphia, the apprentices were given a holiday and they viewed the procession on Old York Road. There was a troop of one hundred white horses from Bridgeton and vicinity, while they were passing, father exclaimed "Why there is our old horse!" His friend replied; "You would never recognize your horse among so many". So they made a small wager, then asked the rider who owned the horse. He replied; "Henry Shoemaker of Deerfield." So father won the bet.

In November, 1833 my father received a summons to hasten to Deerfield that his father was very ill. On the night of November 14, his cousin Henrietta Moore called to him to come down that the stars of Heaven were falling. He hastened outside and witnessed the greatest meteoric shower on record. The stars were coming down like a gentle fall of snow. He put out his hand but could feel nothing. They disappeared within two feet of the ground. His father died the following day.

Some years after this event, Henrietta Moore, father's cousin, went to Mississippi to teach school, after being away some years, she concluded she would like to visit her friends in New Jersey. She was a passenger on the steamer Henry Clay, which was destroyed by fire on Lake Erie in 1852. On reading the account of the disaster, I saw her name among the list of "Lost". Father exclaimed; "That is our Cousin Henrietta!" He communicated immediately with the owners of the vessel, they informed him, there was nothing left of her effects but one trunk, which was sent to him, and he forwarded it to Robert Moore of Bridgeton, New Jersey.

After father had served his apprenticeship, the firm presented him with the finest suit of clothes they could furnish. After working for them several years, he went in business with Jonathon Ogden, father of the late Robert Ogden, partner and manager in John Wanamaker's New York store. After four years, they dissolved partnership, my father moving to 31 North 6th Street where he conducted the tailoring business for thirty-six years. He gave up his business in 1878 and associated himself with Hiram DeWalt on Chestnut Street above Eighth in the old Girard House and continued with him until his sudden death in a Walnut Street car on his way home to my house.

He left to me a memory more precious than gold. A month or so before his death he was asked if he would like to live his life over again just as he had lived it? After a moment's thought he replied: "while I have had many sorrows, I also have had many joys, and if it were possible I would like to live it over again just as I have lived it."

My father was married in Philadelphia in 1828 to Eliza Knight, who came from Ireland when eight years old (her mother being dead) in charge of her Aunts, Frances Knight and Katherine Stark. The parents of the two latter were converted under the direct preaching of John Wesley.

My mother's father was a Captain in the British Marine Service. Her parents lie buried in Paisley Churchyard, Scotland. My mother died suddenly, May, 1864, aged fifty-five years. The issue of this marriage was seven children— Francis, Robert and Charles (twins), Eliza, Kate, Charles (myself) and William; all having passed away except myself (Robert, Eliza and William all dying suddenly).

Father was married the second time in 1874 to Mrs. Annie Bagley of Brooklyn, New York, who died in 1884.

Shortly after Henry Shoemaker's death the farm was bought by Paul Beck, a shipping merchant of Philadelphia and given to his niece, Sarah Fleming, wife of Enoch Green Shoemaker, she continued to live there until her death in July, 1872, aged 81 years. Enoch Green Shoemaker died July 2, 1862 aged 67 years. Paul Beck also gave to Horace Brewster Shoemaker, the sum of one thousand dollars, which he decided to place with James B. Potter of Bridgeton, N. J.,

and go into his store and learn the business (he was at that time learning the printing business). He ultimately became a partner with him and finally sole owner. He married Mary Eretty, daughter of George Eretty, who was an Attorney-at-Law, and Alderman, living on Third Street above Buttonwood Street, Philadelphia.

There is a John Shoemaker and Susannah his wife that lie buried in the Deerfield Churchyard. This John Shoemaker died March 26, 1847, aged 73 years. I cannot trace his family, as I have no data to go by. Phoebe Shoemaker, his daughter lived to a very old age. She was a hunch-back and lived in Bridgeton.

The children of Enoch and Sarah were Horace Brewster, Harriet, Charles and Hannah Moore.

The farm was finally bought by Horace B. S. who bequeathed it to his son Paul Beck S, who still lives there. (1925)

Of the Shoemaker family in general, several became quite distinguished, two of them, father and son, were mayors in Philadelphia in the colonial days. In 1884 I visited Wilkes-Barre and met Lazarus D. Shoemaker, a congressman and large coal operator, who told me several interesting facts connected with his family. One of his forefathers was massacred by the Indians Wilkes-Barre. I went there and found a little monument erected on the site to commemorate the battle where the white settlers were put to death without regard to age or sex. He also told me that the first ton of coal was hauled to Philadelphia by one of the name.

In summing up the history of the family as far as I know it, there remains one branch I would like to speak more fully of, namely; Hiram Shoemaker and his large progeny. I knew him well, and have spent several weeks at a time with him at Elsinboro and Sharptown. He often came to visit us in Philadelphia but I would like to know who his parents were. I know he visited relatives in Ohio.

Following this is the Hiram Shoemaker record of his family and his descendants.

I, Charles Knight Shoemaker, was born in Philadelphia on February 29, 1840. The first I remember of my city life was the Roman Catholic Riots in 1844 which created great excitement. The Governor calling out the Militia of the whole estate. The riots were occasioned by the killing of George Shiffler, who was parading with the American Protestant Association.

The outcome of these riots was the destruction of two Roman Catholic Churches -- St. Michaels, Second and Jefferson Sts. and St. Augustines, Fourth above Race St. A number of people were also killed. A troop of Cavalry from Reading Pa. were quartered at the Verona Hotel nearly opposite our store. This troop of soldiers naturally attracted my attention, as a little boy, as they drilled in front of the store every day.

The next event in my young life I remember was the breaking out of the war with Mexico in 1846. My father took me to see the first

regiment of soldiers to depart from Philadelphia and made the remark; "If I lived to be an old man I could say I saw them go." When peace was restored the State House and all dwellings were illuminated by colored lights and candles placed in the windows.

I attended public school; my whole aim and desire was to become an Episcopal Minister, but at the age of fourteen I became ill in school from a weak heart. I was carried home and for one year was attended by a physician (sometimes three) and during that period never left my room, nor was I ever allowed to return to school, so my aim in life was thwarted. To recuperate I was sent to the country to Mr. David Veal's near Beebe Run, my grandmother, Rachel Shoemaker was living there during the one year I remained on the farm. I returned home altogether improved.

I have in my possession about fifty arrow heads found in Deerfield and other places, the theory is that an Indian Tribe formerly settled in this vicinity. In my twentieth year, 1861, was the commencement of the Civil War by the firing on Fort Sumpter. During the summer of this year Horace Brewster invited my wife and self to join a Bay party. There were about sixteen in all. We cruised around for a week finally stopping at Fort Delaware where we saw the first Rebel prisoners.

I had two cousins killed, John Tyler of near Deerfield (a grandson of John Moore) in the Union Army, and Robert Stark of Tennessee in the Confederate Army. My youngest brother, William enlisted in an emergency call for troops. After being out a short time his regiment was discharged. The last night on picket duty he contracted a cold which resulted in his death shortly after his return home, aged 20 years.

Among the notable events I have witnessed was the great fire in Philadelphia at Front and Vine Sts., which destroyed three hundred and fifty houses and twenty lives, about the year 1852. The burning of the ferry boat, New Jersey, on the Delaware River in 1856 when eighty lives were lost. Also the burning of Barnum's Museum at Seventh and Chestnut Sts. in 1851. The Chinese Museum, Ninth and Sansom Sts. in 1850. Among the most notable funeral processions were those of John Quincy Adams, Zachary Taylor (mock funeral), Elisha Kent Kane the Arctic explorer, and General Meade's.

The notable men it has been my privilege to have seen and heard were Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Louis Kossuth the Hungarian Patriot, Prince of Wales in 1857, Abraham Lincoln, General U.S. Grant, General Meade, General Butler, Edwin M. Stanton, Sec. of War, Dom Pedro of Brazil, Charles Dickens, Edwin Booth, Edwin Forrest and many others.

Among clergymen, I have heard Canon Farrar, Newman Hall, Dudley Tyng, Dwight L. Moody, Philips Brooks, DeWitt Talmage, Henry Ward Beecher, Bishop Simpson and others too numerous to mention.

In 1876, your father, Horace Brewster Shoemaker, accompanied me on several occasions to the Centennial Exhibition held in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.

June 30, 1898, I married my present wife, Elizabeth J. Daughter of Adam and Elizabeth Clark of Wigton, England. Many of our progenitors lie buried in the Deerfield Cemetery, Where heave the turf on many a moulderling heap.

"The saints of God lifes voyage o'er,
Safe landed on that happy shore,
No stormy tempests now they dread,
No roaring billows lift their head.
O Happy saints forever blest,
In that calm haven of your rest."

Charles K. Shoemaker,
Deerfield, New Jersey.
March, 1914.

Charles Knight Shoemaker, author of this paper, died at Deerfield, New Jersey, 1916, lies in the old Presbyterian church yard, Deerfield, north end of the Shoemaker section, east of the church.
